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PARIS FOR SECRETARY

BRITISH AMBASSADOR INFORMS ME THAT KHRUSHCHEV IN CONVERSATION WITH NOEL BAKER DECEMBER 16 RAISED QUESTION OF BERLIN AND SAID SOVIETS WOULD CONSIDER ANY REASONABLE PROPOSAL SUBJECT TO TWO CONDITIONS, FIRST THAT IT PROVIDE FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ALLIED TROOPS FROM BERLIN, AND SECOND THAT THESE TROOPS NOT BE REPLACED BY "ADENAUER". KHRUSHCHEV SAID SOLUTION OF BERLIN PROBLEM MIGHT TAKE A LONG TIME BUT HE WAS CONVINCED. THAT IN THE END IT WOULD HAVE TO SETTLED ALONG LINES SOVIET PROPOSAL.

THOMPSON

762.00/12-1353

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